

POLICY
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

Philosophy

The goal of successful pest management programs in schools is to protect students, faculty, and staff from noxious pests and toxic pesticides, thereby providing a safer and healthy learning environment that is relatively pest-free with the least possible use of pesticides.

Pests are controlled to protect the health and safety of students and staff, maintain a productive learning environment and maintain the integrity of school building and grounds.

It is the policy of this school district to implement Integrated Pest Management procedures to control structural and landscape pests and minimize exposure of children, faculty, and staff to pesticides.

Definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Integrated Pest Management offers an alternative to traditional pest control methods. IPM emphasizes pesticide reduction through long-term solutions to addressing pest populations. IPM prevents pests by decreasing the resources pests need to survive.

IPM is a pest management system that uses all suitable techniques in a total management system to prevent pests from reaching unacceptable levels or to reduce existing pest populations to acceptable levels while balancing the risk of the pest with the potential risk of the approach.

Pests

It is the policy of this school district to control pests in the school environment. Pests such as cockroaches, fleas, fire ants, stinging wasps, termites and rodents are annoying and can disrupt the learning environment in schools. Pests are known to bite, sting, or transmit diseases, and may also cause allergic responses or rashes.

Pesticides

It is the policy of this school district to reduce exposure to pesticides in the school environment to the maximum possible. When pesticides are used to control pests in schools, there is potential for human exposure. Excessive exposure may result in pesticide poisoning or allergic responses in sensitive individuals. Children may be more susceptible to pesticides than adults due to their smaller size and rapid growth and development. Their playful behavior may expose them to more pesticide residues.

Integrated Pest Management Response

- Non-chemical prevention of pest populations using such methods as sanitation, exclusion, and cultural practices, removing the foods and conditions that allow pests to thrive.
- Pesticides will be used on an “as needed” basis only.
- The least hazardous method and materials to treat pests will always be used and selection will be based on the targeted pest.
- Pesticides will be targeted to areas not accessible to children, faculty and staff.

Success

The success of IPM in schools is dependent upon:

- Education and training
- Full cooperation of administrators, faculty, maintenance/custodial staff, parents, and students.
- Establishment of a school district-wide IPM coordinator and advisory committee.
- Collaboration with trained and licensed pest management specialists
- School-based safety committees shall include pest management and pesticide policy as part of their agenda.
- Each school shall designate a staff member to coordinate the IPM program and maintain accurate and ongoing pest management records.

Education

Staff, students, pest managers from each school, and the public will be educated about potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures used to achieve the desired pest management objectives.

IPM practitioners depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage by the most economical means and with least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The choice of using a pesticide will be based on Facilities Management reviewing with the contracted licensed applicator all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible.

It is the policy of this School District to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents. Non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet important management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen.

No application will be made in any building or on the grounds during regular school hours.

IPM procedures do not apply to the use of germicides, disinfectants, sanitizers, deodorizers, antimicrobial agents, insecticidal soaps, nonvolatile insect or rodent bait traps in tamper resistant containers, insect repellants or the application of a pesticide under 40 CFR parts 152.25.

RI School for the Deaf and its licensed/certified pest control contractor will implement a Monitoring and Inspection Program, which includes:

- i. Methods of surveillance
- ii. Scheduled inspections and monitoring to determine if remedial action is necessary.
- iii. Description of site-specific pest control methods.
- iv. Conditions considered necessary to allow pesticide application
- v. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for all pesticides used.
- vi. Photocopies of the contractor's commercial pesticide applicator certificates/licenses on file.
- vii. Notification and postings: The School Systems contractor will work with the IPM Coordinator to ensure full compliance with state notification and posting requirements.
- viii. Monitoring Log

Notification

1. Each school shall notify staff and families of its policy and maintain a registry of persons requesting pre-notification of pesticide application. Notice will be provided to the persons on the registry no later than twenty-four (24) hours before a pesticide application.

-Notice will be given by any means practical and will contain:

-Common name and active ingredient of the pesticide to be used.

-EPA Registration Number as listed on the pesticide label,

-The pest(s) being controlled.

-The specific location where the pesticide is to be used,

-Date of application,

-Name of the IPM Coordinator or his/her designee, who can be contacted for further information.

2. Each school will maintain a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for any pest control chemicals used on school property, and the school nurse must be aware of and monitor any children or staff with health-related sensitivities.

3. Sanitation is the most important part of pest management. Sanitation is, in great part, dependent on students and staff. Preventing and reducing pest infestations depends on:

- a. The presence of food left in classrooms, trash areas, common areas, and lockers that is uncovered or available to rodents.
 - b. Reporting the presence of pests to the school IPM facilitator/record keeper.
 - c. Proper maintenance of plumbing in areas, such as (but not limited to), bathrooms, locker rooms, consumer science rooms, horticulture areas, and boiler rooms. Maintenance should include: leak repairs, cleaning, sealing of pipe chases, and proper storage and disposal of paper and recyclables.
4. Parents must be made aware of the School's Pest Management policy and procedures. A description of the schools IPM policy and procedures will be located on the school facilities website. Parents are to be encouraged to ask questions, report problems and seek information about the IPM policies and procedures.
5. Record Keeping – Each school will keep a log of pest sightings, pesticide notification forms, a pest application record and MSDSs for all pesticides used in its buildings or on its grounds. Work Requests will be used to inform Facilities Management of the possible need to call the school system pest control contractor. The IPM Coordinator and the school systems contractor will determine based on a log of pest sightings, if a pesticide is the best choice of action. Copies of the contractors Service Report Form will be kept in a school log.

The IPM Coordinator is RISDeaf's Assistant Building and Grounds Officer: Glenn Seaburg.

The IPM Advisory Committee is comprised of the Assistant Building and Grounds Officer: Glenn Seaburg, the pest management contractor, and the Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations, Amy Vincenzi.

Reference:

Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs, Section 25
RIGL: 23-25

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